

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 4505 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAIRO,
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QUOTE S E C R E T AMMAN 4505

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TAGS: PEPR, JO, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S VISIT TO JORDAN

REF AMMAN 44720

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO JORDANIAN PALACE CHIEF SHARAF,
MAJOR ASPECT
OF EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S MAY 15 - 16 VISIT TO JORDAN
WAS EGYPT FLOATING IDEA OF ISRAELI TURNOVER OF WEST BANK AND
GAZA TO JORDAN AND EGYPT RESPECTIVELY, AS RETURN TO PRE-1967
STATUS QUO ANTE, WHICH EGYPTIANS BELIEVE ALONG WITH GUARANTEES
TO ISRAEL, COULD PROVIDE ACCEPTABLE BASIS FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL.

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KING HUSSEIN LISTENED SYMPATHETICALLY, BUT WAS NON-COMMITTAL.
EGYPTIANS CLAIMED SAUDIS
SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE TO IDEA, BUT JORDAN PLANS TO EXPLORE SAUDI
ATTITUDE DURING THE KING'S MAY 20-21 VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA.
END SUMMARY.

1. JORDANIAN ROYAL DIWAN CHIEF SHARIF ABDUL HAMID SHARAF

MAY 17 GAVE ME A READ-OUT ON EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S MAY 15 - 16 VISIT TO JORDAN. SHARAF SAID MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ASPECT OF VISIT WAS EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL FOR EGYPT AND JORDAN TO ASSUME CONTROL RESPECTIVELY OF GAZA AND WEST BANK FOLLOWING AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND DURING A SUBSEQUENT TRANSITION PERIOD. SHARAF SAID EGYPTIAN EMPHASIS WAS ON RETURN TO A STATUS QUO ANTE#JUN YHZOOLT AS A BASIS, ALONG WITH SUITABLE MUTUAL GUARANTEES, FOR ARRANGING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. SHARAF SAID JORDAN'S POSITION WAS THAT THEY ARE CERTAINLY WILLING TO EXPLORE SUCH IDEAS PROVIDED THERE ARE SOME REASONABLE ASSURANCES THAT ISRAEL WILL IN FACT WITHDRAW; BUT THAT THUS FAR, THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT'S TRACK RECORD IS NOT AT ALL ENCOURAGING IN THIS RESPECT. MOST POSITIVE NOTE ON EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL FROM JORDAN'S VIEW-POINT WAS THAT RETURNING GAZA AND WEST BANK TO EGYPT AND JORDAN IMPLIES THAT EGYPT PERHAPS SOMEWHAT LESS INCLINED TOWARD IDEA OF PALESTINIAN STATE.

2. SHARAF SAID MUBARAK IMPLIED THAT SAUDIS WERE GENERALLY FAVORABLE TO ABOVE EGYPTIAN FORMULA BUT SHARAF IS SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL, FEELING THAT SAUDIS MAY HAVE BEEN MORE RHETORICAL THAN SUBSTANTIVE IN THEIR SUPPORT SHARAF SAID. IN PREVIOUS CONTACTS WITH JORDAN ON THIS ISSUE, SAUDIS HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES TO BE MORE PARTIAL TO ALLOWING SECRET

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PLO RATHER THAN JORDAN TAKE THE LEAD ON WEST BANK ISSUE AND IN PROMOTING CONCEPT OF INDEPENDENT STATE.

3. SHARAF SAID JORDAN INTENDS TO CHECK DIRECTLY WITH SAUDIS ON THIS ISSUE DURING KING HUSSEIN'S MAY 20-21 VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA. KING IS PLANNING VISIT IN VERY LOW-KEY MANNER IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE SAUDI ROYAL PROTOCOL BECAUSE HE WANTS TO SPEND MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF TIME POSSIBLE WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD. SHARAF SAYS KING HUSSEIN NEEDS TO DISCUSS WITH FAHD NOT ONLY MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS BUT ALSO JORDANIAN FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AND NEEDS.

4. SHARAF DENIED THAT MUBARAK HAD CARRIED ANY LETTER FROM SADAT TO KING HUSSEIN, ALTHOUGH HE HAD A SET OF TALKING POINTS HE FOLLOWED CLOSELY. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ASPECT OF VISIT REVEALED THAT EGYPT IS NOW FEELING EFFECTS OF ISOLATION FROM OTHER ARABS AND IS TENTATIVELY EXPLORING POSSIBLE WAYS OF MAKING SOME RECONCILIATION. TO YHZOOLT KING HUSSEIN DISCUSSED WITH MUBARAK WAYS THAT ARABS COULD "CUSHION" THEIR POSITION IN CASE THE SADAT INITIATIVE FAILS.

JORDAN'S EMPHASIS IS ON BEING ABLE TO RETAIN A POSITIVE ARAB ATTITUDE TOWARD IDEA OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS EVEN WITH A FAILED SADAT INITIATIVE, RATHER THAN SEEING OVER-REACTION FROM ARAB WORLD, WHICH COULD LEAD TO DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES. SHARAF ADDED HE WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY COMPETENCE SOME OF THE YOUNG AMERICAN-EDUCATED FOREIGN MINISTRY PEOPLE WITH MUBARAK.

6. COMMENT: I GOT IMPRESSION FROM SHARAF'S REMARKS THAT JORDAN LISTENED CAREFULLY AND SYMPATHETICALLY TO MUBARAK'S PRESENTATION BUT, IN THE ABSENCE OF PROMISING INDICATIONS OF ISRAELI WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW FROM WEST BANK, JORDAN IS CERTAINLY NOT COMMITTING ITSELF TO JOINING NEGOTIATIONS. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE POSITION THAT SAUDIS TAKE WITH JORDANIANS REGARDING NEGOTIATIONS,
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GIVEN FACT THAT MUBARAK IS VISITING SAUDI ARABIA AGAIN PRIOR TO KING HUSSEIN'S ARRIVAL.
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